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Minutes 12/2/2009

MEETING MINUTES

Open Space Committee

Meeting Date: December 2, 2009

Prepared by: Lisa Decker

Present: Ann LeRoy, Chair;
David White, Conservation Commission;
Leslie Mayer, Parks & Recreation Commission;
Joey Glushko, Planning Department;
Elizabeth Karpati, Arlington 2020;
Lisa Decker, Arlington Redevelopment Board

General

- October meeting minutes were approved as unanimously amended.
- There was no official meeting in November (no quorum), consequently no minutes to approve.
- The next Mill Brook subcommittee meeting will be December 10.
- The next Open Space Committee meeting will be January 6. We will dedicate the entire meeting to updating the Open Space Plan to prepare for the February 28 submission.

Mill Brook Linear Park Planning

- Joey provided an update on the Mill Brook tour (November 12) with Cindy Delpapa, water quality specialist of the Massachusetts Riverways program. Clarissa Rowe along with Carol Kowalski, Joey Glushko and Lisa Decker showed Cindy five places along the brook (Colonial Village, Old Schwamb Mill, Theodore Schwamb Mill, Wellington Park and Cooke's Hollow) as an overview of the project. Cindy was impressed by the planning that the subcommittee has done so far and is enthusiastic about the project.
- The committee discussed the potential Mill Brook Overlay District and how it may affect abutting land owners. Outreach to abutting land owners is critical in the next year as the committee works to develop the plan. The details of the overlay district still need to be decided (i.e. should the buffer zone be 100' or 300'?). The planning department is researching the possibility of providing access to the Mill Brook, creating an overlay district and informing the commercial district about the concept in time for Town Meeting in 2011. The plans for the park will not be ready for Town Meeting this year.
- The ARB is strongly in favor of the concept for the Mill Brook Linear Park.
- Joey will try to get in touch with the NPS to talk about why we were turned down for the Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program. Lisa will talk with Marjorie Smith (a former NPS employee) to determine who to talk to at the NPS.
- Joey brought up the idea of producing micro-hydro electric energy along Mill Brook to respond to Arlington's commitment as a Green Community.

The group discussed the possibility and determined that Cooke's Hollow or the Mystic Lake dam have the best potential for producing power with the largest elevation changes along Mill Brook.

- The committee discussed possible funding sources for implementing the Park. Elizabeth informed the committee that the Mystic River Watershed Association applied for a \$3 million grant from the EPA. The EPA is interested in the Mystic River watershed (both Spy Pond and Mill Brook are part of the system). Joey said that funded projects have to be accessible by the public permanently. Elizabeth offered to contact the Mystic River Watershed Association for more information about the program and possible funding.

Open Space Plan

- Joey described the process for extending the Open Space Plan from five years to seven years. We need to submit a revised Chapter 9 by February 28. The committee members should all review Chapter 9 before the January meeting for changes in goals and updates. We will have to re-think our approach to be more reflective of the economic realities of accomplishing the goals. Ann will look for the electronic file for us to revise. Lisa will revise the graphics in In-Design.

Meadowbrook Management Plan

- David presented the revised Meadowbrook Management Plan to the committee. David updated the committee on the changes that have occurred and that are planned for Meadowbrook.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.